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ments might be made to install them at the State University of Colorado (Boulder City). In the early part of the present year (1894) it was decided by Dr. SWIFT to accept a proposition made to him by Professor T. C. LOWE of Pasadena, Cal., and to move his instruments—including the 16-inch CLARK Equatorial formerly at Rochester—to Echo Mountain, near Pasadena, a site some 3500 feet above the sea, and some 2 miles distant from WILSON'S Peak, where the Harvard College Observatory formerly maintained an observatory station. It is understood that Dr. SWIFT'S present station is at the terminus of Professor LOWE'S electric railway, not far from a fine hotel. The establishment of this new observatory is an important event in the astronomical history of California.

E. S. H.

SLIGHT EARTHQUAKE SHOCK, MAY 7, 1894.

On Monday, May 7, I had the unusual experience of detecting a movement of the Earth by the meridian circle, a movement which was too slight, probably, to be recorded by any seismograph, however delicate. This was followed, at an interval of an hour and five minutes, by an actual earthquake shock on the mountain. Whether the first can be considered as the premonitory signal of a movement of greater force to follow, or whether it was simply the outer edge of a shock which occurred at some distance, with no necessary connection with our actual local occurrence later on, can be left to future discussion. The chance of catching these slight movements is not great.

The nadir observation, for the level of the meridian circle, was in progress, and had to be suspended while the movement lasted. The instrument was apparently swaying regularly and with a slow, even swing in the east and west direction, the only motion noticeable.

It must have been the mountain in oscillation, a movement not sensible, probably, by any other means. Mounted on a high step-ladder, I could detect nothing of it myself.

This movement lasted for 15 to 20 seconds, and was of several seconds of arc in extent. The unexpectedness of the occurrence made it puzzling at the time, and I was more concerned to see that nothing was wrong with the instrument, than in making such measures as might have given more exact data had I known the meaning of the movement. The clock face was not illumi-

nated, so that the time is only given to the nearest minute : 10^h 52^m P. M., Pacific standard time.

As the level observation had been partially made previous to the commencement of the movement, I was able to assure myself that no change had occurred in the position of the instrument.

One hour and five minutes later came an actual shock, sensible to others in the Observatory as well as to myself, and which had the effect of disturbing the instrument in zenith distance by 3". The amount of change, however, has no relation to the intensity of the shock. The circle had been read in part after the observation of a star, and by returning over the same microscopes the effect could be readily seen.

This appeared to me as one single, sharp shock. The approximate time was 11^h 56^m 45^s, Pacific standard time, though no attempt was made to record this exactly. R. H. T.

THE ORBIT OF 70 OPHIUCHI.

This interesting binary star has recently been thoroughly investigated by Dr. SCHUR, and his results have been given in a late number of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 3220. It is an interesting object historically, since it has been under observation since double stars were first measured, the list of observers including every name of note in this department of research. It also affords one of the best objects for the computation of an orbit, especially since the companion has already completed a revolution about the primary star since accurate measures were begun.

It was one of the earliest stars measured by Sir WILLIAM HERSCHEL, 1779, when he had still in view the possible determination of stellar parallax by means of such measures of double stars; that is, of stars optically double, lying close together in the line of sight, but without physical connection.

The elder STRUVE began upon this star in 1819 and continued to observe it till 1837. Sir JOHN HERSCHEL and SOUTH measured it during this period. BESSEL, with the Königsburg heliometer; ENCKE, GALLE and others at Berlin, MÄDLER at Dorpat, KAISER at Leiden, and OTTO STRUVE at Poulkova, are famous names. Coming down to later times, Baron DEMBOWSKI at Vienna, Father SECCHI at Rome, and WINNECKE at Berlin and Bonn, ENGLEMAN, DUNÉR, SCHIAPARELLI and